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Editors' Comments

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

One of the major challenges facing Catholic education is the training of qualified leaders for the future. We see this need at every level at which Catholic education exists: elementary and middle schools, religious education programs, high schools, colleges, and universities all require qualified teachers and instructors who function as committed, faith-filled professionals. Teachers need more than educational and classroom competence. We look for classroom leaders who are people of faith and whose faith makes a difference in their professional practice. Administrators must certainly manifest a variety of managerial and organizational skills, but Catholic education requires that they be faith leaders and persons of prayer as well. In many ways, the future of Catholic education depends on the identification, recruitment, training, and retention of such qualified faith leaders.

This issue reports on what is happening in Catholic higher education to meet the demands of training such leaders for the future. Our focus section provides several examples of efforts already established and well under way that attempt to respond to the need for some comprehensive programming. The focus section is preceded by four reflections on leadership written by Catholic school superintendents, all of whom are vowed religious. The essays set the stage and clarify the need for leadership training for Catholic educators. Our thanks to guest editor Michael Garanzini, SJ, former Provost of Saint Louis University, for placing his expertise and experience at the service of this most important topic.

Other articles in this issue offer some fascinating insights as well. John Convey, one of the leading researchers in Catholic education, revisits the question of bishops' and priests' perceptions of Catholic schools. Another essay takes us to Scotland, and our book review section considers the role of papal primacy. Thomas Groome's popular new book, *Educating for Life*, rounds out our book review section, reminding us of the crucial role educators play in the life and faith of the Church.

Ronald J. Nuzzi, Thomas C. Hunt, *Editors*

Note: We take this opportunity to welcome Thomas Hunt, Ph.D., as co-editor of the *Journal*. Tom brings with him a generous spirit, a priestly heart, and years of experience in Catholic education at a variety of levels. As a historian of education as well as a man of the Church, Tom is uniquely qualified to lead this journal into the next millennium. We'll learn about him in the next issue's Editors' Comments, but for now: Welcome, Tom!

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